

Application No. 10/789,156
Amendment filed with RCE

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21 (Canceled).

22. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus,
comprising:

a first identification unit to identify an area of an input
image as one of a character area, a photographic area, and a
5 screened halftone area;

an output unit to output one of a character area
identification signal, a photographic area information signal,
and a screened halftone information signal based on an output of
the first identification unit for each identified area; and

10 a recording unit to form an image for each identified area
to be a respective single color based on the signal output by the
output unit for each said identified area.

23. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus,
comprising:

an identification unit to identify an area of an input image
as one of a chromatic character area and an achromatic character
5 area;

an output unit to output one of a chromatic character area
identification signal and an achromatic character area

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identification signal based on an output of the identification unit for each identified area; and

10 a recording unit to form an image for each identified area with a respective single color which corresponds to the signal output by the output unit for each said identified area.

24. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising a second identification unit to identify the character area as one of a chromatic character area and an achromatic character area.

25. (Currently Amended) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising a specification unit to specify the respective single color for each said identified area.

26. (Currently Amended) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising a specification unit to specify the respective single color for each said identified area.

27. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising a gradation processing unit to gradation-process image information of the achromatic character area.

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28. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising a gradation processing unit to gradation-process image information of the achromatic character area.

29. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the first identification unit has an identification reference value and comprises an operation setting unit to set the identification reference value.

30. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the identification unit has an identification reference value and comprises an operation setting unit to set the identification reference value.

31. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the first identification unit has a first identification reference value and the second identification unit has a second identification reference value, and wherein the color image forming apparatus further comprises an operation setting unit to set the first and second identification reference values.

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32. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the input image is obtained by reading a document with a document reading device.

33. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the input image is obtained by reading a document with a document reading device.

34. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 22, further comprising a control unit to determine whether the output of the first identification unit is accurate.

35. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising a control unit to determine whether the output of the identification unit is accurate.

36. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 34, further comprising an adjustment unit to automatically adjust the identification reference value based on control signals output from the control unit.

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37. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 35, further comprising an adjustment unit to automatically adjust the identification reference value based on control signals output from the control unit.

38. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the adjustment unit comprises at least one of a spatial filter adjustment unit, a gamma control unit, a color conversion adjustment unit, and an error diffusion adjustment unit.

39. (Previously Presented) The color image forming apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the adjustment unit comprises at least one of a spatial filter adjustment unit, a gamma control unit, a color conversion adjustment unit, and an error diffusion adjustment unit.

40. (Currently Amended) A color image forming method, comprising:

identifying an area of an input image as one of a character area, a photographic area, and a screened halftone area;

5 outputting one of a character area identification signal, a photographic area information signal, and a screened halftone

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information signal based the identification of each identified area; and

10 recording an image for each identified area to be a respective single color based on the output signal for each said identified area.

41. (Currently Amended) A color image forming method, comprising:

identifying an area of an input image as one of a chromatic character area and an achromatic character area;

5 outputting one of a chromatic character area identification signal, and an achromatic character area information signal; and

recording an image for each identified area to be a respective single color based on the output signal for each said identified area.

42. (Previously Presented) The color image forming method according to claim 40, further comprising identifying the character area as one of a chromatic character area and an achromatic character area.

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43. (New) A color image forming apparatus, comprising:

a first identification unit to identify an area of an input image as one of a character area, a photographic area, and a screened halftone area;

an output unit to output one of a character area identification signal, a photographic area information signal, and a screened halftone information signal based on an output of the first identification unit for each identified area;

a recording unit to form an image based on the input image; and

a controller to control the recording unit to form an image for each identified area to be a respective single color based on the signal output by the output unit for each said identified area, when an area identification mode is selected.

44. (New) A color image forming apparatus, comprising:

an identification unit to identify an area of an input image as one of a chromatic character area and an achromatic character area;

5 an output unit to output one of a chromatic character area identification signal and an achromatic character area identification signal based on an output of the identification unit for each identified area;

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10 a recording unit to form an image based on the input image;
and

a controller to control the recording unit to form an image
for each identified area to be a respective single color based on
the signal output by the output unit for each said identified
area, when an area identification mode is selected.